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# DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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## I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 1 May 1990, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/943 - S/21281), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People stated the following:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the further escalation of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"Since my letter to you on 15 February 1990 (A/44/920-S/21151), more Palestinians, including children, have been killed or wounded. According to a recent report of the DataBase Project on Palestinian Human Rights, 893 Palestinians including 216 children under 16 years of age, were killed between the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 and 9 April 1990. Al-Fajr reported on 12 April 1990 that during March 1990, 20 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli Army, including 9 children under 18, and hundreds were wounded.

"Harsh collective punishment continues to be imposed widely. Al-Fajr reported on 9 April 1990 that at a press conference on 5 April the Israeli Public Committee against Torture had condemned the torture of Palestinians during interrogation by police and security officers. Representatives of the Committee said that lawyers and human rights organizations had recently been hearing with "depressing regularity" reports of torture during the intifadah. The same issue of Al-Fajr reported that six Arab Knesset members had demanded, following a visit to Ansar 3 detention camp on 4 April, the release of all Palestinians under administrative detention and the closure of the camp. The Knesset members had condemned the harsh conditions in the camp, where 753 administrative detainees, 3,888 sentenced prisoners and 1,406 suspects awaiting trial were being held.

"The Israeli authorities continued to commit other violations of Palestinian rights in the occupied Palestinian territory. The daily Ha'aretz reported on 12 April 1990 that, on the previous day, the eve of Good Friday, some 10 armed Jewish families, singing and clapping, had moved into St. John's Hospice near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This unprecedented Jewish move into a Muslim or Christian district of the Old City had sparked protests and international condemnation. On 23 April The New York Times reported that the Israeli Government had acknowledged that it had secretly provided the settlers with nearly $2 million for the purchase of the Hospice. It was also reported that a lower Israeli court had ordered their eviction but that the Supreme Court would take up the case shortly.

"On 19 April, The Washington Post reported that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was "hurriedly seeking" to establish new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories before leaving office. It was reported that the newly appointed person to oversee the new drive had launched a "crash program" to break ground for four new settlements in the next few weeks and to install permanent housing at Jewish-occupied sites in the West Bank cities of Nablus and Hebron. It was also reported that settlers had already begun work at a new settlement, Dugit, located just north of Gaza City.

"Deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity of the settlement activities and the increasing incidents of oppression and mounting number of victims, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People deplores once again the repressive policy and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which are in violation of its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and are contrary to the provisions of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Committee considers that the adoption of urgent measures by the Security Council to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/233 of 20 April 1989 and 44/2 of 6 October 1989, is imperative. The Committee also appeals to you and to the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt intensified measures to alleviate the suffering of the unarmed Palestinian civilians under the occupation, especially women and children.

"The Committee wishes to stress once again the urgent necessity to advance towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question in accordance with the principles reaffirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989, and reiterates its appeal to you and to all concerned to intensify efforts to attain this essential objective."

**In a subsequent letter, dated 21 May (A/44/947-S/21303), the Chairman wrote to the Secretary-General as follows:**

"As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express anguish and outrage at the massacre near Tel Aviv of Palestinian workers from Gaza and at the subsequent brutal repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian demonstrators.

"According to press dispatches by Reuters, Agence France Presse and UPI, and reports in The New York Times and The Washington Post, a former Israeli soldier dressed in army trousers and brandishing an assault rifle lined up dozens of Palestinian workers on a roadside in Rishon Le-Zion, near Tel Aviv, in the morning of 20 May, and opened fire, killing 7 and wounding 11. Defying a curfew imposed by the Israeli army, Palestinians took to the streets in great numbers throughout the occupied territory to protest against the massacre. A three-day general strike was called by the leadership of the intifadah. In the ensuing confrontations, Israeli troops shot and killed another five Palestinians in Gaza and two in the West Bank, and wounded at least 650 more.

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"On behalf of the Committee, I wish to protest in the strongest terms against the indiscriminate actions by the Israeli army in firing on unarmed demonstrators who were understandably enraged by the massacre. The Committee finds it unconscionable that the murderous action of a disturbed individual, instead of leading to swift justice, should be used by the occupying forces to launch a new wave of repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territory. The Committee strongly deplores the climate of hate engendered by the repressive policies of the occupying Power, which cannot but lead to growing tension and violence.

"These grave incidents show once again that the present Israeli Government flouts its obligations as the occupying Power under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and refuses to take the necessary steps to engage in a peace process. Under the circumstances, the Committee considers it imperative that the Security Council should adopt urgent measures to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people under occupation, as repeatedly requested by the General Assembly and by the international community as a whole. The Committee further appeals once again with the utmost urgency to the high contracting parties to the Convention to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the Convention. The Committee considers that ultimately true protection for the Palestinians can be achieved only through the exercise of their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own State, alongside Israel, with the proper security guarantees, and calls on all concerned to intensify their efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989."

## II. SECRETARY-GENERAL CONDEMNS ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL, OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JORDAN

The following statement (SG/SM/4445), attributable to the spokesman for the Secretary-General, was made on 21 May 1990:

"The Secretary-General views with grave concern the tragic incidents which took place yesterday in Israel and the occupied territories, and today in Jordan. He strongly condemns these acts of violence against innocent civilians.

"Yesterday's attack on Gazans reporting for work in Israel, in which seven were murdered and 10 others wounded, sparked demonstrations throughout the occupied territories that resulted in seven further Palestinian deaths by Israeli army gunfire, and the wounding of hundreds of others. These incidents highlight the vulnerability repeatedly expressed by those living under Israeli occupation. Time and again during the past two-and-a-half years, the Palestinians have appealed for measures to ensure their safety and protection. For his part, the Secretary-General has on numerous occasions called on the Israeli authorities, as the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. He urges that appropriate steps be taken to enable the Palestinians to feel secure.

"The attack, which took place this morning against innocent tourists in Amman, wounding nine of them, cannot be viewed in isolation from the events that occurred yesterday. The lack of progress towards peace, which can only be achieved through effective negotiations, has deepened the frustration of the peoples of the Middle East, contributing to an escalation of tension throughout the area. The Secretary-General feels it is imperative that a negotiating process involving all the parties to the conflict be launched as soon as possible."

## III. SECURITY COUNCIL CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

On 3 May 1990, the Security Council again took up consideration of the request by the Soviet Union that the Council consider "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the Arab occupied territories".

The meeting was the sixth in a series held in response to a request by the Soviet Union in a letter dated 12 February (see S/21139). The letter had stated that actions taken by the Israeli Government ran counter to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and obstructed peace efforts in the Middle East.

It was agreed that the Council would meet further on the item following consultations on the subject among Council members.

Accordingly, on 22 May, the following statement was issued by the President of the Security Council:

"Following consultations with the members of the Security Council concerning the request of the Permanent Representative of Bahrain of 21 May 1990 (S/21300) to hold an immediate meeting of the Security Council, the President is setting the first meeting on this matter at the United Nations Office at Geneva on Friday, 25 May 1990, at 3 p.m., to continue until the Speakers' List for that meeting is exhausted." (see SC/5183)

Subsequently, the Security Council convened on 25 and 26 May at Geneva, at which time Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization addressed the meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the debate and made the following statement: (see S/PV.2923)

"On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, over which it is my honour and privilege to preside in the name of my country, Senegal, I welcome the personal participation of His Excellency President Yasser Arafat in this meeting of the Security Council, devoted - yet again - to recent tragic events in the occupied Palestinian territories. His important statement eloquently illustrated the gravity of the situation in that area, where the occupying Power, Israel, consistent with its attitude of defiance and provocation, is maintaining a climate of terror and violence that is conducive to the outbreak of such tragedies. This demonstrates Israel's total disregard for international public opinion, for the numerous relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

"The convening of this meeting came in immediate response to the Arab request, and I consider that the considerable participation by Ministers and other eminent individuals is further proof of the interest in finding a speedy, positive solution to this problem. It is therefore to be hoped that the Council's deliberations will lead to immediate, vigorous and concrete measures to assure the necessary protection of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories to enable them quickly to recover the exercise of the inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination and independence.

"I feel all the more justified in my hopes, Mr. President, because of your human, moral and intellectual qualities and your special skill. The esteem enjoyed by your country, Finland, will certainly help you guide the Security Council's delicate work towards the achievement of its objectives.

"As I reiterate my commitment to full co-operation, I wish also to take this opportunity warmly to congratulate your predecessor, Ambassador Tesfaye Tadesse, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, for the very effective and efficient way in which he carried out his tasks last month.

"I also congratulate the delegation of Yemen on the unification of the Republic of Yemen.

"I thank all the members of the Council for enabling me, as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to join them in expressing our indignation at the tragic events that have taken place since 20 May.

"World public opinion continues to condemn Israel's policies and practices aiming at modification of the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories, yet Israel's leaders have unleashed even harsher and more brutal repression than before: with the blind action by the Israeli armed forces, many Palestinian civilians were killed in cold blood, and more than 800 were seriously injured. What crime had they committed, other than that of demonstrating to protest the massacre of seven Palestinians on the morning of 20 May by a former Israeli soldier? That massacre was presented as the act of a madman. I believe that the reaction of the Israeli Government - harsh and brutal repression and the imposition of a curfew in Gaza and the West Bank - was a further act of harshness. It constituted an act of defiance to the international community, the General Assembly and the Security Council, and proves yet again that Israel deliberately refuses to be associated with United Nations efforts to promote a negotiated solution to the problem through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Moreover, this situation poses a grave threat to peace and security in the Middle East, where a new war could break out if we are not careful.

"In the letter dated 21 May 1990 that I addressed, on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to the Secretary-General concerning this tragedy, I believe I laid sufficient stress on all these considerations in order to draw the attention of the Security Council to them. I would add only that at a time when the Palestinian people, through Yasser Arafat, its President and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole, authentic representative, has opened the way to a process of dialogue, Israel seems to have opted for violence and confrontation. Israel is saying once again that it does not wish to comply with the relevant provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, or to participate in Middle East peace initiatives.

"The view of the Committee is that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, must accept this challenge by making Israel, pursuant to the Geneva Convention, guarantee the safety of the Palestinian civilian population and join in the international consensus established by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989 on the prompt convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Moreover, the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention must make further contributions to the efforts to secure Israel's scrupulous respect for those instruments.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is confident that the Security Council will adopt decisions in line with general opinion, and we hope that observers will be sent promptly to the occupied Palestinian territories to restore peace and security, without which there can be no realistic hope of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. That is the only position we could take, for the Organization's credibility is at stake - quite apart from the general disappointment that would prevail were a different decision to be taken.

"By taking firm decisions the Council must make Israel understand that it cannot - either by force of arms, by brutal and bloody repression or by arbitrary measures - suppress a people that is determined to reconquer its territory under occupation and exercise fully all its inalienable national rights in a wholly sovereign, free and independent State. Israel must understand also that, since the unleashing of the intifadah on 9 December 1987, the Palestinian people is more determined than ever before to achieve a satisfactory conclusion to its noble and legitimate struggle, without prejudice to the achievement through dialogue and negotiation of an acceptable, just and lasting solution for the Palestinian people.

"I wish in conclusion to reiterate our full confidence in the members of the Security Council; we are certain that they will manifest the necessary wisdom and firmness. The decisions taken by the Council will be of prime importance, for they must serve to consolidate the positive progress we are witnessing today: in the field of disarmament,

with the encouraging changes in the East, with the recent independence of Namibia, with the changes in South Africa, with the reunification of the two Yemens and with the imminent unification of the two Germanys. These are tangible results of the tireless efforts of the United Nations to bring about a better international climate, the settlement of regional conflicts and a world of peace, security and co-operation.

"It would thus be most unfortunate if one of the oldest questions on the agenda of the General Assembly - the question of the Middle East and Palestine - were not to be included in that dynamic movement but were rather to become dangerously tangled because of a single State's stubbornness and determination to violate with impunity the rules and regulations of the international community and because that State, forgetful of history, persists in inflicting on a defenceless population all manner of atrocities recalling those of which the Jewish people itself was victim.

"In the face of such a situation and at a time when this Council is meeting and we are witnessing a constant deterioration of the situation, we must do everything possible to ensure that future generations in the Middle East, the cradle of the three revealed religions, can coexist peacefully in freedom and mutual respect and can participate in building and consolidating the peace, justice and co-operation that we will have bequeathed to them."

The Council reconvened on 31 May 1990 in New York and considered a draft resolution submitted by Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Yemen and Zaire, by which the Security Council would have sent a commission to the occupied territories to prepare recommendations on how best to ensure the safety of Palestinian civilians there. The text of the draft resolution reads as follows (see S/21326):

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the letter dated 21 May 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of May 1990 (S/21300),

"Having listened to the statement by His Excellency President Yasser Arafat,

"Reaffirming that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Gravely concerned and alarmed by the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Bearing in mind that any deliberately planned act of violence in the region is a blow to peace,

"1. Establishes a Commission consisting of three members of the Security Council, to be dispatched immediately to examine the situation relating to the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Requests the Commission to submit its report to the Security Council by 20 June 1990, containing recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with the necessary facilities to enable it to carry out its mission;

"4. Decides to keep the situation in the occupied territories under constant and close scrutiny and to reconvene to review the situation in the light of the findings of the Commission."

The vote on the draft resolution was 14 in favour, one against with no abstentions. It was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

## IV. UNRWA EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER RECENT VIOLENT CLASHES IN WEST BANK AND GAZA: COMMISSIONER-GENERAL DEPLORES MEASURES APPLIED BY ISRAELI FORCES

**The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 21 May 1990:**

"The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has expressed its deep distress and concern at the heavy toll of casualties resulting from clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday, 20 May, during protests over the killing of seven Palestinians by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv.

"At least six Palestinians were killed and more than 700 wounded when Israeli forces used live ammunition, beatings and tear gas to disperse demonstrations which erupted spontaneously on the news of the killings in Israel — one of the worst outbursts since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising 29 months ago.

"During Sunday's incidents in the Gaza Strip, four Palestinians, including a woman, were shot dead by soldiers — two in Rafah refugee camp, one in Beach camp and one in Sheikh Radwan refugee quarter. More than 600 Palestinians were treated at UNRWA clinics or local hospitals in the Gaza Strip. Of these, 519 had been shot — 382 with live ammunition and 137 with plastic-covered steel balls.

"In the West Bank, where protests were more scattered and the military response more restrained, two Palestinian villagers were shot dead and dozens wounded in the day of protest.

"During Sunday's disturbances, UNRWA staff members helped evacuate the wounded and delivered medical supplies to clinics and hospitals. All UNRWA health centres, overwhelmed with casualties, were providing first aid medical care and treated severely wounded patients before their referral to hospitals.

"A general curfew on the Gaza Strip confined 650,000 people — most of them refugees — to their houses. Curfews imposed on all of the Gaza Strip and wide areas of the West Bank today brought virtually all UNRWA education, health and relief services to a halt.

"In the West Bank, the Israeli authorities had ordered all schools closed today even before curfews were declared. UNRWA medical services in both Gaza and the West Bank were operating today on an emergency basis, with regular preventive health care and mother-and-child clinics suspended as some of the medical staff were not allowed in."
(see PAL/1729)

**On 22 May 1990, the following press release was issued by UNRWA.**

"During a second day of violence in the Gaza Strip yesterday, four more Palestinians have been killed and 142 wounded by live ammunition. This brings the toll of Palestinian victims to 10 killed and 842 wounded during the past two days of violent clashes. Contrary to a recent trend, more than 60 per cent of the wounded in Rafah and Khan Younis were hit in the upper body. All health clinics operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continue to provide emergency medical assistance under the difficult conditions created by the imposition of an ongoing curfew.

"UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli deplored the 'excessive use of force' by the Israeli security forces against the civilian population. He said in the Agency headquarters in Vienna today: 'One can only feel that needless deaths and suffering could have been avoided if the military forces had exercised restraint during the demonstrations of mourning which followed the killing of seven Palestinians by an Israeli assailant. Above all, we are disturbed that the use of live rounds of ammunition should have been resorted to so quickly and extensively and that the type of wounds inflicted appears to indicate a disregard for human life.'" (see PAL/1730)

## V. EXCERPTS FROM THE FINAL STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THE EMERGENCY ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE HELD AT BAGHDAD FROM 28 to 30 MAY 1990

The final statement of the Emergency Arab Summit Conference contained the following items relating to Palestine.

The valiant Palestinian intifadah

"With great pride, the Conference saluted the endurance of the Palestinian Arab people under brutal Israeli occupation, the escalation of the valiant Palestinian intifadah in confronting savage repression on the part of the Israeli authorities and the precious sacrifices made daily by the people of Palestine for the purpose of liberating its occupied homeland and establishing an independent State on its national soil and with its capital at Jerusalem under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The Conference stressed the need for all forms of material, political, governmental and popular support to be made available and for the strengthening of supporting activities at the national, regional and international levels in order to ensure the continuation and expansion of the intifadah and the achievement of its lofty goal of liberation, independence and sovereignty.

Jewish immigration to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories

"The Conference addressed itself to the grave dangers arising out of directed and organized Jewish immigration to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories: its implicit violation of the rights of the Palestinian people in its territory and its homeland; the consequences that Zionism is planning for it to have with the goal of expelling that people from its national territory; and the perpetuation and expansion of Israeli occupation through stepped-up Israeli settlement activities and the expulsion of Palestinian citizens and the confiscation of their property and land for the absorption of Jewish immigrants with a view to realizing the so-called "Greater Israel" plan. That plan is confirmed by statements made by Israeli officials and by the new maps that they have proposed for the achievement of their well-known expansionist ambitions.

"The Conference is fully convinced that the immigration of Soviet and other Jews to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories is a fresh act of aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people, a grave danger to the Arab nation and a blatant violation of human rights, the principles of international law and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Jewish immigration as a danger to national security

"The Conference affirms that this extensive and organized undertaking represents a grave threat to pan-Arab national security, that needs to be addressed in that perspective and in a collective manner and that it requires that all necessary measures should be taken to protect the rights of the Palestinian people and pan-Arab national security.

Condemnation of Jewish immigration, and illegality of settlements

"The Conference, strongly condemning the immigration of Jews to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, calls upon the States directly involved in that immigration in particular and on the international community in general to take action for a speedy end to the Israeli immigration and settlement scheme. It calls for a guarantee of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return to its homeland in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 1948. It affirms the illegality of the establishment of Israeli settlements and the need for a halt to their construction, the dismantling of those that have been built and the creation of an international mechanism to monitor Israeli activities in this field.

"The Conference further calls upon all States to refrain from providing any assistance or loans to the Israeli Government that might facilitate the settlement of immigrants in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories.

Call for the formation of an international observer mission

"The Conference stresses the need for a reappraisal of Arab relations with other States in the light of their positions on the issues of Palestinian national rights and Jewish immigration. The Conference calls upon the United Nations to meet its responsibilities, in accordance with the Charter, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and the relevant international conventions, to ensure that Jewish immigrants are not settled in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and it calls for the formation of an international observer mission to ascertain that fact and for action to be taken for the adoption of a Security Council resolution to that effect.

Political efforts for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region

"The Conference analysed the present conjuncture in the inter-Arab arena, and it reviewed the political efforts being made for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. It expressed its conviction that escalating tension, which threatens to lead to an eruption, has its origin in the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories, the continuing denial to the Palestinian Arab people of its inalienable national rights and the continuing policies of aggression, intimidation and expansion pursued by

the Israeli authorities. The Conference regards the United States of America as having prime responsibility for this situation, as the State which provides Israel with the military capacity, the financial assistance and the political cloak without which it would be unable to persist in such policies in defiance of the will of the international community.

The International Conference, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the resolutions of the Arab Summits

"In its commitment to the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions adopted by the Arab Summits, in particular those held at Algiers in 1988 and Casablanca in 1989, the Conference affirms that the convening of the International Conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, is now taking on an urgent and imperative character. The Conference affirms the commitment of the Arab States to the belief that the question of Palestine represents the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict and that a just and lasting solution to the human tragedy of the Palestinian people and crisis in the region lies in ensuring the exercise of the inalienable national rights of that people, including the right to return, to exercise self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian State with its capital at Jerusalem.

Growth of international support for the cause of Palestine

"The Conference notes with satisfaction and appreciation that international support for the just cause of the people of Palestine is growing and that an increasing number of States have recognized the State of Palestine.

Condemnation of the positions adopted by the United States Congress

"The Conference expresses its censure and condemnation of the positions of partiality and political protectionism adopted by the United States Congress and the large-scale military and economic support for Israel that characterizes its positions and resolutions, most recently the nugatory resolutions on Jerusalem and on support and funding for Jewish immigration, which encourage settlement in the occupied territories.

Jerusalem: capital of the State of Palestine

"The Conference affirms the religious and political status of Jerusalem and considers it to be an integral part of Palestine and the capital of the State. It rejects any encroachment on its religious and legal status as a flagrant violation of international conventions and resolutions.

"The Conference endorses the decision of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to hold an Islamic-Christian conference on the protection of Islamic and Christian Holy Places.

Condemnation of the United States Congress resolution on Jerusalem

"In this connection, the Conference condemns the resolutions adopted by the United States Senate and House of Representatives. The Conference asserted in that regard that the Arab States would take political and economic measures against any State that considered Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel.

International protection for the Palestinian people

"In the face of the persistence of the Israeli authorities in their heinous crimes against Palestinians, the Conference demands protection for the Palestinian people, under international supervision and United Nations auspices, against deliberately planned extermination and expulsion, as a preparatory step to the exercise of its right to self-determination and national independence.

Monitoring of Jewish immigration, and the Arab position with regard to international economic groupings

"In view of the importance of monitoring Jewish immigration and of the Arab position with regard to international economic groupings, the Conference decided to invite the Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Arab Ministers of Economic Affairs and Finance to hold an urgent meeting, within two months, in order to examine those two issues, and submit the necessary recommendations on modalities for dealing with them to the next Summit, and likewise to study the encouragement of Arab investment in the Arab world." (see A/45/305-S/21345)

## VI. EXCERPT FROM COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, HELD AT KINGSTON, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, ON 7 AND 8 MAY 1990

The communiqué of the Standing Committee of Ministers contained the following (see A/45/294, paras. 46 and 47):

"The Ministers noted that the situation in the Middle East had not improved and again felt compelled to register their disappointment that the peace process has not advanced. This situation, which has implications for world peace, again underscores the need for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on the conflict.

"The Ministers agreed that any such solution must be based on certain established principles: the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied lands, and the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live in peace and security within recognized and secure borders in accordance with Security Council resolution 242 (1967)."

## VII. TWENTY-SIXTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT STOCKHOLM FROM 7 TO 11 MAY 1990

The Twenty-sixth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine (Fourth European Regional Seminar), entitled "Peace and justice for the Palestinian people", was held at Stockholm from 7 to 11 May 1990, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 44/41 B of 6 December 1989.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising: H.E. Mrs. Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee and head of delegation; Mr. Alexander Borg Olivier (Malta), Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Seminar; Mr. Hadi Thayeb (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi (Palestine).

A total of 7 meetings were held and 20 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. Representatives of 47 Governments, Palestine, 1 United Nations organ, 1 United Nations specialized agency, 1 intergovernmental organization, as well as 17 non-governmental organizations, as observers, attended the Seminar.

The event was opened by Mrs. Diallo and a welcoming address was made by H.E. Mr. Sten Andersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

A statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was made by his representative, Under-Secretary-General Ronald I. Spiers. Mrs. Diallo also addressed the meeting as did Mr. Eugene Makhlouf, who read out a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

For its part, the Seminar adopted a message to Mr. Arafat and a motion of thanks to the Government and people of Sweden.

The three panels which were established and their panelists were as follows:

1. "The intifadah: its impact and significance for advancing towards a just solution of the principle of two peoples, two States".

   Mrs. Hanan Ashrawi (Palestinian), Mrs. Marisa Cinciari-Rodano (Italy), Mr. Igor Khvorostiany (Ukrainian SSR), Mr. Hans Peter Kotthaus, Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation, Mr. Mikko Lohikoski (Finland), Mrs. Nelly Maes (Belgium), Mr. Evert Svensson (Sweden), and Mr. Dedi Zucker,* Member of the Knesset (Israel).

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* This panelist informed the United Nations Secretariat that he was attending the Seminar as an expert and not as a participant.

2. "Breaking the impasse - the urgent need for a just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine; the International Peace Conference and the role of Europe."

Mr. Michele Achilli (Italy), Mr. Moshe Amirav*(Israel), Marie-Christine Aulas (France), Rabbi Balfour Brickner (United States of America), Mr. Joseph Cassar (Malta), Ms. Viola Furubjelke (Sweden), Mr. Antonio Lacerda de Queiroz (Portugal), Mr. Wan Jingzhang (China), Mr. Martin Weiss (Federal Republic of Germany), and Mr. Andrei Zakharov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

3. "The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the political, economic, social and cultural development of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Khalid al-Hassan (Palestinian).

The expert members of the panels agreed on summaries of the presentations and the discussion of the three topics. The full text of the proceedings will be published in due course as a publication of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The participants in the Seminar took note with appreciation of the sustained efforts of the European countries to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, in accordance with United Nations resolutions. They stressed the great importance of the valuable contribution which the European countries could make towards the achievement of an equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. The participants expressed their conviction that negotiations based on the "two peoples, two States" principle, and which adequately addressed the rights and concerns of both parties, Israelis and Palestinians, would result in peace with justice in the region. They noted with satisfaction that the Seminar had made a positive contribution to the peace process by providing a forum for a balanced and constructive discussion of the relevant issues by speakers representing viewpoints of the parties concerned, and by participants from Europe and from other regions at the governmental as well as non-governmental levels.

2. The participants were encouraged by the fact that recent developments regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core, the question of Palestine, had created a new momentum for bringing about a just solution to this complex and dangerous conflict on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations and within its framework. The intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative of November 1988 are a manifestation of the courageous and determined struggle of the Palestinian people to attain and exercise its inalienable rights, primarily the right to self-determination. These developments and the present international climate, characterized by a new political will to resolve regional conflicts in a peaceful manner with the assistance of the United Nations, had opened new possibilities for breaking the impasse

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and progressing towards peace. Important sectors of the Israeli public were opposed to the unbending policies of their Government and had become active in support of the two-State solution. It was therefore imperative that this historic opportunity not be missed and that efforts be redoubled in 1990 to overcome remaining obstacles so that the process of negotiations could be initiated without further delay, particularly through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

3. The participants highlighted the important developments which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/176 of 15 December 1988. They considered that these developments had given impetus to international endeavours aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just settlement of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They noted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989, the most recent Assembly resolution on the question of Palestine, and were greatly encouraged by the overwhelming vote in favour of this balanced and comprehensive resolution which included, for the first time, all member States of the European Community. This demonstrated the international consensus on the necessity of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination.

4. The participants called on those States which had thus far prevented the implementation of resolution 44/42 to reconsider their position and to join the international consensus. They further expressed their support for every effort by the permanent members of the Security Council to bring the positions of the parties to the conflict closer to each other, to create a climate of confidence between them, and to facilitate in this way the convening and successful outcome of the International Peace Conference.

5. The participants expressed their appreciation for the position adopted by European Governments in response to the proclamation of the State of Palestine, the Palestinian Arab State to exist side by side with the State of Israel, in conformity with the two-State principle, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 181 (II). The participants welcomed in particular the readiness demonstrated by the member States of the European Community to participate actively in the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, and to co-operate fully in the economic and social development of the peoples of the region.

6. The participants noted that there existed an international consensus on the principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace as affirmed in General Assembly resolutions 43/176 and 44/42, namely: the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other Arab territories occupied since 1967; guaranteeing arrangements for the security of all States in the region, including those named in resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947,

within secure and internationally recognized boundaries; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and subsequent relevant resolutions; dismantling the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied since 1967; and guaranteeing freedom of access to holy places, religious buildings and sites. The participants expressed satisfaction that all European countries supported these principles and had voted in favour of resolution 44/42. The consensus thus achieved among the European countries constitutes a significant contribution to the urgently needed peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

7. The Seminar noted that the intifadah had had far-reaching effects including on every aspect of Israeli politics. Specifically, it had led to a major government crisis and had helped the progressive forces working for a just peace to engage in dialogue and joint activities with the Palestinians as a way to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation and to break down prejudices and stereotypes. The participants endorsed the objectives of the demonstration in Jerusalem "1990, Time for Peace" held from 29 to 31 December 1989, in which Israelis, a large number of Palestinians, Europeans and others had expressed support for peaceful negotiations, respect for civil and human rights and the "two peoples, two States" principle. They agreed that the United Nations should continue to offer its good offices and organize appropriate activities to bring together Palestinians and Israelis under its auspices.

8. Participants expressed serious concern at the continued grave violations by Israel, the occupying Power, of the human rights of the civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, which had caused increasing loss of life, hardships and suffering with far-reaching emotional, socio-economic and demographic consequences. The international community had repeatedly declared that the Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory were in violation of its obligations as a party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and also contrary to United Nations resolutions and to generally recognized norms of international law. The participants appealed to the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, including its European signatories, to take appropriate measures to ensure respect for the provisions of that Convention. The Seminar noted that certain economic measures taken in the past had produced positive results. A matter of special concern for participants was the suffering inflicted on Palestinian women and children as a result of the brutal Israeli practices. The increased restrictions on the movement of individuals and on educational institutions, health and social welfare organizations, as well as the constant daily obstacles and harassments, have produced inhuman and intolerable conditions.

9. The participants deplored the process of Israeli colonization of the occupied Palestinian territory as manifested in the continued establishment of settlements, usurpation of land and water resources, and settler vigilantism. They were alarmed at the recent establishment of additional settlements and the secret funding by the Israeli Government of a new settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem and condemned these actions as insensitive and provocative. The international community had vigorously opposed the Israeli policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, which was in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, had declared these actions null and void and had demanded that Israel dismantle the settlements and withdraw from the occupied territory. The participants deplored the recent statements by the Government of Israel regarding the increased settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory while Israel continued to deny the Palestinians the right to return to their homes. They reaffirmed the international consensus that such actions were illegal and would further jeopardize the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine. The participants appealed to Governments to ensure, in conformity with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that members of the Jewish community emigrating to Israel were not used as a tool to perpetuate and strengthen the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. They recalled that article 12 of the Covenant states, inter alia, that the right of everyone to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his/her residence and the right of everyone to leave any country, including his his/her own "shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present covenant". In this connection, participants took note of the recent meetings of the Security Council and its consideration of the "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories". They urged the Council to condemn the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories, declare it illegal and consider it as a new and serious obstacle to peace and to call upon the Israeli Government to review and abandon its obstructionist position.

10. The participants welcomed the fact that the Government of the United States of America had opened a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization and emphasized that the level of the dialogue should be raised and its scope should be expanded to include the consideration in a constructive manner of substantive issues so as to enhance the process of negotiations leading to a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

11. The Seminar particpants appealed to the international community and, in particular, to the United Nations Security Council to assume and discharge its responsibilities and to take urgent measures to ensure the physical protection and to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. They urged the Security Council to take into account the gravity of the acts of violence and human rights violations, including the deportation of Palestinians, which have been repeatedly condemned by

the Security Council and the General Assembly, and other actions taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied territory. The participants again stressed the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and demanded that Israel abide by the Convention.

12. The participants welcomed the courageous steps taken by the Palestinians during the intifadah to establish an alternative infrastructure as a foundation for an independent and sovereign State of Palestine and their efforts to end the Israeli occupation. The Seminar considered that intensified international action towards genuine social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory, with the close involvement of the Palestinian people through its representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, were a necessary corollary to renewed efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine. The participants welcomed the steps already taken by the European countries in this regard and urged them to further increase their valuable assistance to the Palestinian people.

13. The participants urged the Government of Israel to respond constructively to the peace initiative of the Palestine Liberation Organization which had been welcomed and praised by the entire international community. They stressed that Israel should recognize that it could no longer ignore the national aspirations of the Palestinians and continue to deny them their inalienable rights, in particular their right to self-determination. Israel should also acknowledge the aspirations of its own people to a future of peace and justice. The Seminar considered that the steps proposed by the Israeli Government on 15 May 1989 were inadequate, since they did not include interim measures of protection for the Palestinian people and measures which would enable the Palestinians to exercise fully their right to self-determination. The participants called upon Israel to respond positively to international efforts aimed at a just and lasting political sesttlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, which would ensure peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and bring an end to decades of conflict in the region. The Seminar appealed to European countries to pursue their efforts vigorously to convince Israel of the urgent need for a positive and constructive response to peace efforts.

14. The participants emphasized the urgent need for progress in efforts for peace. They were unanimous in expressing concern that if progress were not made soon, extremist elements on both sides would further inflame the situation with grave consequences for international peace and security.

15. The Seminar participants expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his continuing endeavours to advance the peace process, and to facilitate the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The participants urged the Security Council to expedite the convening of the Conference

and to adopt interim measures including the deployment of a United Nations force to safeguard the physical security of the people of the occupied Palestinian territory and to bring about stability in the region pending agreement on a final and comprehensive settlement.

16. The participants in the Seminar endorsed the persistent efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to bring about a solution of the question of Palestine through the attainment of the national rights of the Palestinian people and urged the international community to sustain and strengthen its support for the Committee's activities and, in particular, for its efforts to facilitate the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. They noted with appreciation that the Committee was intensifying its efforts to ensure that the United Nations regional seminars on the question of Palestine provided an opportunity for diverse points of view to be expressed so that a real dialogue could be held among people of goodwill on all sides. In this context, the participants expressed satisfaction that there had been a constructive and frank exchange at the Seminar between the Israeli and Palestinian participants. The Seminar noted, however, that while Palestinians representing the Palestine Liberation Organization had participated in the Seminar, the official viewpoint of Israel had yet to be expressed. The participants expressed the hope that the Government of Israel would be represented at future meetings convened by the United Nations for this purpose and that representatives who could reflect a broad range of political viewpoints were given an opportunity to participate in such meetings. The participants suggested that future seminars and NGO symposia should consider, within the context of the International Peace Conference, some of the most substantive issues which need to be addressed.

17. The participants appealed to all European Governments to support the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in its efforts and urged the same Governments to give serious consideration to participation in the work of the Committee as members or observers. The participants considered that increased representation by European countries in the work of the Committee would broaden the scope of its deliberations and increase its effectiveness.

18. The Seminar participants took note with appreciation of the activities of the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and of its commitment to work, under the guidance of and in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations.

19. The participants in the Seminar were of the view that the United Nations should undertake additional efforts to disseminate factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine and on measures required for the achievement of a just settlement to the question of Palestine. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights had an important role to play in the collection and dissemination of such information. For its part, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat should continue to make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine received the widest possible dissemination and should continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine in full co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

20. The participants in the Seminar took note with appreciation of the valuable humanitarian and other support the Government of Sweden had extended over the years to the just cause of the Palestinian people as well as its efforts towards a just solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. They also expressed their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Sweden for providing a venue for the European Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine, and for the facilities and warm hospitality extended to them.

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## VIII. WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION CONCERNING HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The World Health Assembly, at its forty-third session, adopted the following resolution at Geneva on 17 May 1990 (see WHA 43.26)

"The Forty-third World Health Assembly,

"Mindful of the basic principle established in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all people is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security,

"Seriously concerned by violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and recalling the need for the occupying power to observe strictly its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention to which it has notably not conformed in such basic areas as health,

"Aware of its responsibility for ensuring proper health conditions for all people who are victims of exceptional situations, including settlements which are contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949,

"Recognizing the need for increased support to, aid for and solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as the Syrian Arab people in the Golan, under Israeli occupation,

"Expressing its deep concern at the negative effects of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people during the intifadah in the field of health,

"Thanking the Special Committee of Experts set up to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories for its report and regretting the refusal of the Israeli authorities to allow the experts to visit the occupied Arab territories,

"Taking note of the relevant information provided, and having considered the report of the Director-General on health conditions of the population in the occupied Arab territories, 1/

"1. ASSERTS WHO's responsibility to promote for the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as one of the fundamental rights of every human being;

"2. EXPRESSES its preoccupation and concern at the deterioration in the health conditions of the Arab population in occupied Arab territories;

"3. STRESSES that the policies of the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories are not consistent with the main requirements for the development of a health system appropriate to the needs of the population in the occupied Arab territories;

1/ WHO document A43.23.

"4. DEPLORES the continuous deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories which seriously affects the living conditions of the people, compromises in a lasting fashion the future of Palestinian society and prevents the economic and social development of those territories;

"5. EXPRESSES its deep concern at the Israeli refusal to permit the Special Committee of Experts to visit the occupied Arab territories, and asks Israel to allow the Committee to fulfil its mission of investigating the health conditions of the populations in those territories;

"6. THANKS the Special Committee of Experts for its report and requests it to continue its mission and report on the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories to the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly;

"7. RECALLS resolution WHA42.14 and commends the Organization's efforts to prepare and implement the special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories;

"8. REQUESTS the Director-General, in the light of relevant World Health Assembly resolutions:

"(1) to intensify implementation of the special technical assistance programme, emphasizing the primary health care approach in co-ordination with all Member States, and all other organizations involved in the health and humanitarian activities;

"(2) to co-ordinate health activities, in particular in priority areas, such as maternal and child health, an expanded programme on immunization, water supply and sanitation, and other specific activities to be determined according to needs;

"(3) to monitor and evaluate the health conditions of the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories;

"(4) to pursue the implementation of special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, in co-operation with all concerned WHO Members and observers referred to in WHA resolutions related to this item, taking into consideration a comprehensive health plan for the Palestinian people;

"(5) to seek funds from extrabudgetary sources in support of the special technical assistance programme;

"(6) to report on the above to the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly;

"9. CALLS ON all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the special assistance programme to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories."

Fourteenth plenary meeting
17 May 1990
A/43/VR/14

## IX. STATEMENT BY THE TWELVE STATES MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON PALESTINIAN DEATHS IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SINCE 20 MAY 1990

The following statement was issued by the Twelve States members of the European Community on 24 May 1990 (see A/45/288 - S/21332):

"The Twelve are shocked and saddened by the violence that has left at least 18 Palestinians dead and hundreds injured in Rishon Le Zion and the occupied territories since 20 May. They extend their condolences to the families and friends of those killed and their sympathy to the injured.

"The Twelve deplore the tragic massacre by an Israeli civilian of eight Palestinians in Rishon Le Zion. It is a matter of very grave concern to the Twelve that the response of the Israeli authorities to the spontaneous demonstrations that broke out in the occupied territories has left a further 10 Palestinians dead and hundreds injured. They have repeatedly raised with the Israeli authorities the questions of the use of excessive force to put down manifestations of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"The Twelve earnestly appeal for calm. They call on the Israeli authorities to exercise the utmost restraint. They are also concerned at the risk that violence might spread - a risk illustrated in particular by events yesterday in Amman.

"The Twelve see the latest upsurge of violence as symptomatic of the fragility of the situation in the occupied territories in the absence of any significant prospect of progress in the direction of a settlement. It underlines, in their view, the imperative of resuming the peace process in a meaningful way at a very early date.

"In their contacts with both sides, the Twelve will, on the basis of the principles that they have enunciated in the Declarations of Venice (1980), Madrid and Strasbourg (1989), do all they can to promote significant steps in the direction of a comprehensive settlement. They will also be trying to prevent any further hardening of attitudes which could compromise that objective. Moreover, the Community and its States members will actively pursue their programmes of aid to the population of the occupied territories."

## X. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of May, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Palestine Focus, May/June issue, national newspaper of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. Available from: P.O. Box 27462, San Francisco, CA 94127.

2. Tricontinental, publication of the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL), available from: Calle C, N. 668 e/27 y 29 Vedado, Apartado Postal 4224 y 6130, Havana.

3. Palestine News Agency, Inc., weekly newsletter, available from: National Press Building, Suite 1071, 529 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20045.

4. Journal of the All India Indo-Arab Friendship Association, available from: MIG 38-B, Pocket-C, Ashok Vihar-III, Delhi - 110052.

5. Palestine Perspectives, bimonthly magazine on Palestinian affairs. Available from: 9522 A, Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA.

6. The Other Front, monthly publication, available from: The Alternative Information Center, 14 Korrsh St., P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

7. Israel Mirror, monthly publication, available from: 21, Collingham Road, London SW5 ONV.

8. AJME News, publication of Americans for Justice in the Middle East, available from: P.O.B. 113-5581, Beirut.

9. Middle East International, bi-weekly publication, available from: 21, Collingham Road, London SW5 ONU or, P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009.

10. Afro-Asian Solidarity, quarterly publication issued by the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, available from: 89, Abdel Aziz Al-Seoud Street, 11451-61, Manial El-Roda, Cairo.

11. Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights, newsletter available from: Social Justice Center of Albany, Inc., 33 Central Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210.

12. AMANECER, Boletín Informativo de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales Pro-Palestina, available from: Asociación Amigos de Palestina, Apartado de Correos 2102, 37080 Salamanca.

13. WAFA, publication of Palestine News Agency, Inc., available from: National Press Building, Suite 1071, 529 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20045.

14. Japan Lawyers' International Solidarity Association, statement received by the Division for Palestinian Rights expressing support for national right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and disapproval of action taken against Palestinians by Israeli security forces on 21 May 1990.